

the members of the said Society shall at no time exceed the number of one hundred. And the major part of the council of the State are hereby authorized and empowered to give a charter of incorporation, under the seal of the State, to the afore-mentioned persons and their associates accordingly.

[The foregoing Act passed Dec. 16, 1779.]

Charter.

State of Massachusetts Bay. — The major part of the Council of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting :

Objects of
 Society.

WHEREAS a number of persons have, for several years past, associated themselves, in the Town of Boston, into a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY, for the purpose of mutually aiding and assisting each other, their families, widows and orphans, who may be reduced by the adverse accidents in life to which they are exposed ; and have, for this purpose, raised a considerable common stock, out of which they have, from time to time, contributed to the aforesaid purposes : and the said persons, associated as aforesaid, finding themselves under difficulties and discouragements in executing their said

designs without an incorporation, have, by their committee, petitioned the great and General Court of the State aforesaid, at their last sessions, to be incorporated for the aforesaid purposes; and, their intentions appearing to said court laudable and deserving encouragement, an act was passed by said court, entitled "An Act for incorporating certain persons therein mentioned into a body politic by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY," wherein it was enacted, that William Burbeck, Richard Cranch, Habijah Savage, Samuel Barrett, William Hoskins, John Simpkins, William Bell, Benjamin Edes, William Hickling, Ephraim Copeland, and others, the members of said Society, be incorporated and made a body politic, for the aforesaid purpose, by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Society; and that they, their associates, and successors, have perpetual succession, by said name, and have power to make by-laws for the preservation and advancement of said body, not repugnant to the laws of this State, with penalties either of disfranchisement from said Society, or of a mulct, not exceeding sixty shillings, or without penalties, as it should seem most meet; and have license to make and appoint a common seal, and liable to be sued, and enabled to sue, and make, purchase, and receive donations of real and personal estate, for the purposes aforesaid, *provided* the same shall not exceed the sum of five thousand pounds per annum; and to manage and dispose of such estates as to them shall appear most fit.

Act of In-
corporation.

Organiza-
tion.

And whereas it was further enacted, by the afore-
said great and General Court, that the said Society
be invested with full power and authority to assemble
on the first Monday of September next, for the pur-
pose of appointing a President, Secretary and Treas-
urer, together with such other officers as to them
should seem most suitable; and to appoint their com-
mon seal, and to make by-laws within the restrictions
aforesaid, — and said officers, so appointed, should
continue until the first Monday of September next,
on which day the said Massachusetts Charitable Soci-
ety should meet, and annually afterwards on said first
Monday of September, at Boston, convene to choose
a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other of-
ficers as they should think proper, and to make, alter,
or annul their by-laws, and if by reason of any emer-
gency the business of this annual assembly could not
be completed on said day, they might adjourn once
to a short day to finish it, and no more; and that
said Society might assemble on the first Monday of
every month for all other business. And when any
of the officers should die, or be disabled, or remove
out of this State, others should be appointed or
elected in their room, at the next meeting. And all
instruments which said Society should lawfully make,
should, when in the name of said Society, and pursu-
ant to the rules thereof, being signed and delivered
by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, or other
officers or persons, as the said Society shall appoint,
and sealed with their common seal, bind said Society,

Annual
Meetings,
Officers
and By-
laws.

Officers,
Elections
to fill Va-
cancies.

and be valid in law. And it was further enacted, that the members of the said Society should, at no time, exceed the number of one hundred; and the Council of this State was thereby authorized to give a Charter of Incorporation, under the seal of said State, to the afore-named persons, and their associates, accordingly.

Member-
ship, Limit
of.

In pursuance therefore of the aforesaid act, WE do hereby create, incorporate, and erect the said William Burbeck, Richard Cranch, Habijah Savage, Samuel Barrett, William Hoskins, John Simpkins, William Bell, Benjamin Edes, William Hickling, Ephraim Copeland, and others, into a body politic, for the aforesaid purposes, by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY, at Boston, in New England; and do, by these presents, give and grant to them, their associates and successors, perpetual succession, by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Society, and a power of making by-laws for the preservation and advancement of said body, not repugnant to the laws of this State, with penalties, either of disfranchisement from said Society, or of a mulct, not exceeding sixty shillings, or without penalties, as it shall seem most meet, and license to make and appoint their common seal. And the said Society shall be liable to be sued, and enable to sue, and make purchases, and take donations of real and personal estates, for the purposes aforesaid, not exceeding the sum of five thousand pounds per annum, and to manage and dispose of said estates as shall seem most fit.

Incorpora-
tors.

Name and
Powers of
Society.

Liability.

- Officers.** And said Society shall have a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as they shall think proper ; and shall assemble, on the first Monday in September next, to appoint their President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as they shall think proper, and to appoint their common seal, and to make by-laws ; and said officers so appointed shall continue until the first Monday of September following, on which day said Massachusetts Charitable Society shall meet, and annually afterwards, on said first Monday in September, at Boston, convene to choose a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as they shall think proper, and to make, alter, or annul their by-laws ; and if, by reason of any emergency, the business of this annual assembly cannot be completed on said day, they may adjourn once to a short day to finish it, and no more ; and said Society may assemble on the first Monday of every month for all other business, — and when any of the officers of said Society shall die, or shall be disabled, or remove out of this State, the members of said Society are hereby authorized and empowered, at their next meeting, to elect and appoint others in the room of the officers so removed ; and all instruments, which said Society shall lawfully make, shall, when in the name of said Society, and pursuant to rules thereof, being signed and delivered by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, or other officers or persons, as the said Society shall appoint, and sealed with their common seal, bind said Society, and be valid in law.
- Meetings.**
- By-Laws.**
- Adjournment to short day.**
- Officers, Elections, to fill vacancies.**
- Validity of instrument.**

GIVEN under our hands and the seal of said State, at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this fiteenth day of March, *Anno Domini*, 1780, and in the fourth year of the independency of the United States of America.

By command of the major part of the Council,

JOHN AVERY, *Dep. Sec'ry.*

T. DANIELSON,
N. CUSHING,
TIMOTHY EDWARDS,
A. FULLER,
SAMUEL NILES,
JOSEPH SIMPSON,
JOHN FITTS,
NOAH GOODMAN,

EDWARD CUTTS,
JEREMIAH POWELL,
W. SRAVER,
ARTEMAS WARD,
THOMAS CUSHING,
SAMUEL ADAMS,
HENRY GARDNER.

Presidents.

- JOHN HANCOCK, 1780-82.
THOMAS DAWES, 1782-1807.
JONA. LORING AUSTIN, 1807-10.
JOHN SIMPKINS, 1810-23.
THOMAS MELVILLE, 1823-33.
GEO. HOMER, 1833-37.
WM. C. HUNNEMAN, 1837-50.
JOSEPH W. HOMER, 1850-54.
URIEL CROCKER, 1854-58.
SAMUEL H. HUNNEMAN, 1858-62.
SIDNEY HOMER, 1862-66.
SAMUEL B. PIERCE, 1866-70.
OSWYN BREWSTER, 1870-74.
MELVIN LORD, 1874-76.
DANIEL HENCHMAN, 1876-78.
JOS. H. HUNNEMAN, 1878-82.
WM. INGALLS, 1882-86.
PETER T. HOMER, 1886-88.
SAMUEL H. HUNNEMAN, 1888-91.
URIEL H. CROCKER, 1891-.